

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claim 16 is amended and claims 21-22 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicant to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 7, lines 1 to page 8, line 11), figures (e.g., FIGS. 2-3), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-22 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Reichelt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,447; "Reichelt"). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Reichelt in view of Valentine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,209; "Valentine"). Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Reichelt in view of Ahlberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,657,372; "Ahlberg"). These rejections are respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action's citations to the applied references, with or without modification or combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the modification or combination of the Office Action's citations to the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest the mobile switching center that allows the user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide the communication feature to the user, as recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

For explanatory purposes, applicant discusses herein one or more differences between the claimed invention and the Office Action's citations to Reichelt, Valentine, and Ahlberg. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the Office Action's citations to Reichelt, Valentine, or Ahlberg correspond to the claimed invention.

Reichelt (Abstract) discloses:

A method and system that enables a subscriber and/or operator to specify one or more conditions under which a given feature such as a supplementary service (SS) is to be executed. When a call event occurs, the relevant telecommunications network evaluates a logical expression that includes variables corresponding to the specified conditions. If (i) the specified conditions are such that the logical expression for the given feature is "TRUE" and (ii) the feature is "ON", then the network executes the given feature and may further perform a specified task related to the executed feature. If (i) the logical expression is not evaluated to "TRUE" or (ii) the feature is not "ON", then the network does not execute the given feature. The network preferably evaluates a logical expression at least for each feature that the subscriber has turned "ON". The method and system is applicable to, for example, the call forwarding, call waiting, multi-party calling, and call barring features. The conditions may include, for example, time, usage, password, and calling party number.

Reichelt discloses logical expressions performed on a calling party number to turn a feature on or off for all users. Applicant respectfully submits that the calling party number is not equivalent to a feature group. For example, a feature group may comprise one or more identifiers for calling parties, for example, the calling party numbers. Reichelt performs a comparison against each calling party number in a list instead of a comparison to a group. In one example where the called party is a business user with many preferred calling parties (e.g., coworkers and clients), the comparison against each calling party may be time-consuming. Reichelt fails to disclose the mobile switching center that allows the user of the mobile

communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide the communication feature to the user.

So, the Office Action's citation to Reichelt fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

Valentine (Abstract) discloses:

The present invention provides a system and method for reliably transferring Dual Tone Multiple Frequency (DTMF) signals originating at a MS through an IP based GSM network. In general, when a MS sends a DTMF request, it is processed in the IP network by a logical application module in a MSC, which, based on the disclosed processing, activates another logical application module in an appropriate gateway (for independent, remote, tone generation), and then the logical application module in the gateway directs the production of the DTMF signal towards the interworking or destination network.

Valentine discloses transferring DTMF signals over an IP based network. Valentine fails to disclose the mobile switching center that allows the user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide the communication feature to the user.

So, the Office Action's citation to Valentine fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

Ahlberg (column 8, lines 30-42) discloses:

The first timer 58 is initially set to a predetermined value within which the user of the cellular telephone 21 must respond to the alert. The predetermined time period can be set, such as by the user of the cellular telephone or the designer of the cellular radio network, to any desired value. However, the predetermined time period is preferably between about fifteen seconds and about forty seconds. Once set, the first timer is thereafter decremented such that if the user of the cellular telephone does not appropriately respond to the alert within the predetermined time period, a message is transmitted to the source telephone advising the calling party that the user of the cellular telephone is temporarily unavailable.

Ahlberg (column 9, lines 26-42) further discloses:

The second timer 66 is initially set to a predetermined value within which the user of the cellular telephone 21 must begin voice communications with the source telephone of the accepted telephone call. The predetermined time period can also be set, such as by the user of the cellular telephone or the designer of the cellular radio network, to any desired value. However, the predetermined time period of the second timer is preferably between about fifteen seconds and about forty seconds. Once set, the second timer is thereafter periodically decremented and, if the second timer expires prior to actuation of the release hold selection means 62 by the user of the cellular telephone, one embodiment of the cellular telephone of the present invention can transmit a predetermined message to the source telephone informing the calling party that the user of the cellular telephone is presently unable to speak with them.

Ahlberg discloses the first timer for accepting the incoming call and the second timer for picking up the accepted call from on hold. Ahlberg discloses that the first timer and the second timer are user defined in duration. Ahlberg fails to disclose that the timers are based on whether the calling party is a member of a feature group. Ahlberg fails to disclose the mobile switching center that allows the user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide the communication feature to the user.

So, the Office Action's citation to Ahlberg fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

The Office Action's citations to Reichelt, Valentine, and Ahlberg all fail to meet at least one of applicants' claimed features. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Office Action's citations to Reichelt, Valentine, or Ahlberg of the mobile switching center that allows the user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide the communication feature to the user, as recited in applicants' independent claim 1.

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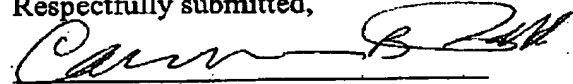
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For all the reasons presented above with reference to claim 1, claims 1, 14, and 19 are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 14, and 19, as well as for their own additional characterizations. Claim 10, for example, recites communicating the first indication for the call waiting feature if the calling user is assigned to the call waiting feature group and communicating the second indication for the call waiting feature if the calling user is not assigned to the call waiting feature group.

Withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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